

From Father Kirby...

February 12, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Ordinary Time is moving quickly. I encourage you to invest in the remainder of this liturgical season and dive deeper into your discipleship to the Lord Jesus

This weekend, we welcome Monsignor Karl Chimiak to Our Lady of Grace. Monsignor is a retired priest from Washington, DC. He will be hearing Confessions and celebrating our 4:00 PM Mass this weekend. *Welcome, Monsignor!*

It's a joy this Sunday to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of our new deacon. Deacon Heath was ordained last weekend and will serve our parish as a permanent deacon. *Congratulations, Deacon Heath!*

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

As you came on campus this weekend, you certainly noticed the immense work that was done by our landscapers this past week. In the coming week, work will continue and it's our hope that things will be completed by next weekend. As we know from our theological tradition, beauty is always a help to spirituality. As things are more beautiful, we are more inclined to pray. And that's our great hope with our campus projects, to increase beauty and so dive deeper in the spiritual life.

Next Sunday, February 19, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration. We'll have some food, bouncy houses, desserts, and a lot of fun. The event is free. All are welcome!

On Monday, February 20, the parish will observe Presidents' Day. There will be no public Mass or Confessions on that day. All other events are suspended. We ask God's continued blessings upon the United States of America!

Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year. Our Mass schedule here at the parish is 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Confessions will follow all the Masses.

On Thursday, February 23, our parish will participate in the [Worldwide Virtual Rosary](#). The rosary will be prayed at 12 Noon that day. Our daily Mass will follow the rosary (around 12:30 PM).

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2022/2023](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all of our events and programs for the coming year.

I'd like to encourage every household of the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with family friendly content.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

As we prepare for Lent, I'd like to make you aware of a Lenten program I did with the Catholic Company. Entitled, "[How to Read the Bible](#)," the program dives into the specifics of how the Church approaches and reads the Bible. While there are many programs about *what* to read in the Bible, this program focuses on *how* to read the Bible. If you register and use the promo code "OLG20," you'll receive a 20% discount.

I want to encourage parishioners to please pre-plan their funerals with the parish. Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music, is happy to meet with any parishioner and go through the pre-planning process. Monty can be reached at mbennett@charlestdiocese.org.

Be sure to read and review our revised and updated [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

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